

VZCZCXRO3069
PP RUEHBZ RUEHGI
DE RUEHGI #0009/01 0230326
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 230326Z JAN 09
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0817
INFO RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY 0054
RUEHBZ/AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE PRIORITY 0108
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0075
RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY 0061
RUEHCO/AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY 0048
RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY 0043
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0091
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY 0087
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY 0209
RUEHLGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY 0061
RUEHKI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 0220
RUEHLC/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY 0119
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0076
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 0113
RUEHNJ/AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY 0392
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0379
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0107
RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY 0371
RUEHGI/AMEMBASSY BANGUI 1007

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BANGUI 000009

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

AF/C FOR SSARDAR, MASHRAF, SLOPEZ, KWYCOFF; PARIS FOR RKANEDA;
LONDON FOR PLORD; YAOUNDE FOR POL/ECON
STATE FOR OPS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [ECON](#) [EAID](#) [CT](#)

SUBJECT: NEW CAR COALITION GOVERNMENT - NOTHING NEW, AND NOT A
COALITION

¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The announcement on Monday, January 19, of a new coalition government ended the several weeks of delay in naming the new coalition recommended by December's Inclusive Political Dialogue. The new government, listed below, represents little change from the old and is even less inclusive. Prime Minister Faustin Archange Touadera remains in his position, though the number of members in the new Cabinet jumped from 29 to 32 and the most controversial Ministers such as the Minister of Mines remain in place. The new reshuffle will certainly not placate the political opposition, and it remains to be seen whether a couple token government positions will quell the northwest and northeast rebellions. END SUMMARY

THE FEW CHANGES

¶2. (SBU) The CARG agreed in December to a new consensus government, to be created from all of the Dialogue's participants, including the various rebel groupings and political opposition. Nonetheless, the President delayed in naming a new Prime Minister for several weeks, mired in difficult negotiations with the UFDV opposition coalition. The new government, listed below, is not inclusive of all participants and represents little change from the old. Prime Minister Faustin Archange Touadera remains in his position, though the number of members in the new Cabinet jumped from 29 to 32, with one promotion for then-Minister of Communications Cyriaque Gonda to the title of Minister of State for Communications. The other Ministers of State, including notoriously corrupt Minister of Mines Sylvain Ndoutingai, remain in their positions, while several other Ministers were shuffled to different portfolios. Former Minister for Foreign Affairs Dieudonne Kombo-Yaya was dropped and replaced by CAR General Antoine Gambi whose previous duties included overseeing the Security Sector reform process, a position he carried out with mediocre reviews from international partners. Justice Minister Thierry Maleyombo lost his position, and was replaced by the former Secretary-General of the Presidency Laurent Ngon-Baba.

The President's cousin and previous Water and Forests Minister lost her position, and was replaced by former Finance Minister Emmanuel Bizot.

THE UNKNOWNNS

13. (SBU) Nonetheless, the few departures underline the lack of change in this government, and the few appointments of outsiders and rebel-associated Ministers call into question the coherence of the CARG. The unknown APRD-affiliated Francois Naoyama was selected as Minister for the Environment and Ecology, a much less powerful and redundant Ministry in comparison with that of Water and Forests. Another relative unknown, Mr. Djollo-Djidou of Abacar Sabone's rebel group MLJC, was named as Minister of Housing and Habitats, while the only member of the political opposition on the list, Mr. Andre Nalke-Dorogo of the opposition Movement for the Liberation of the Central African People (MLPC), was not notified of his impending selection and resigned his new position as Minister of Health on January 21 under pressure from his party. That President Bozize would not notify his nominee for Minister of Health of the impending announcement indicates a random selection process, as well as a paltry qualifications scheme for these positions.

NOTHING NEW, AND POSSIBLY WORSE

14. (SBU) In short, little has changed in the CARG, and the new government so resembles the old that it hardly counts as anything new. It will certainly not placate the political opposition, though their general unwillingness to compromise and their preparations for the 2010 elections may lead them to accept the government for the moment in hopes of defeating it

BANGUI 00000009 002 OF 003

later at the ballot box. As for the rebel groups, a couple token government positions is unlikely to quell the northwest and northeast rebellions. At present, some rebel leaders are touring the northwest in hopes of convincing their troops to drop their arms. That said, recent fighting near Ndele may signal a return to the chaotic groupings and erratic low-scale warfare that has characterized northern CAR for the last five years.

15. (U) List of Ministers:

Prime Minister - Faustin Archange Touadera

Ministers of State

Minister of State of Plan, the Economy, and International Cooperation: Sylvain Maliko
Minister of State of Transportation: Parfait Mbaye
Minister of State for Mines, Energy, and Hydraulics: Lt. Col. Sylvain Ndoutingai
Minister of State for Communications, Civics, National Reconciliation, and Follow-Up for the Dialogue: Cyriaque Gonda

Ministers

Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture: Fidele Gouandjika
Minister of Justice: Laurent Gon-Baba
Minister of Tourism and Artisanat: Marie-Solange Pagonendji-Ndakala
Minister of the General Secretariat of the Government and with Relations with Institutions: Desire Kolingba
Minister of Commerce and Industry: Emilie Beatrice Epaye
Minister of Water, Forests, Hunting, and Fishing: Emmanuel Bizot
Minister of Reconstruction, Public Buildings, and Urbanism: Faustin N'Teloumbi
Minister of Equipment and Linkages (Desenclavement): Cyriaque Samba-Panza
Minister of the Public Sector, Labor, Social Security and Youth Training: Gaston Mackouzangba
Minister of Social Affaires, National Solidarity, and the Family: Bernadette Sayo
Minister of National Education: Ambroise Zawa
Minister of the Environment and Ecology: Francois Naoyama

Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization:
Elie Wefio
Minister of National Security and Public Order: General Jules
Bernard Ouande
Minister of Finance and Budget: Albert Besse
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and the
Francophone World: General Antoine Gambi
Minister of Public Health, Population, and the Fight Against
HIV/AIDS: Andre Nalke-Dorogo
Minister of Youth, Sports, Arts, and Culture: Aurelien Simplicie
Zingas
Minister for the Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises,
Informal Sector: Moise Kotaye
Minister of Habitats and Lodging: Mr. Djollo-Djidou

Deputy Ministers

Deputy Minister for Defense: Francis Bozize
Deputy Minister for Mines, Energy, and Hydraulics:
Jean-Chrysostome Meckondongo
Deputy Minister for Plan, the Economy, and International
Cooperation: Raymond Adouma
Deputy Minister for Finance and Budget: Hassan Abdalla-Kadre
Deputy Minister for National Education: Sall Djibrine
Deputy Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture: Youssoufa
Yerima Mandjo
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and

BANGUI 00000009 003 OF 003

Francophonie: Ambroisine Kpongo
COOK ##